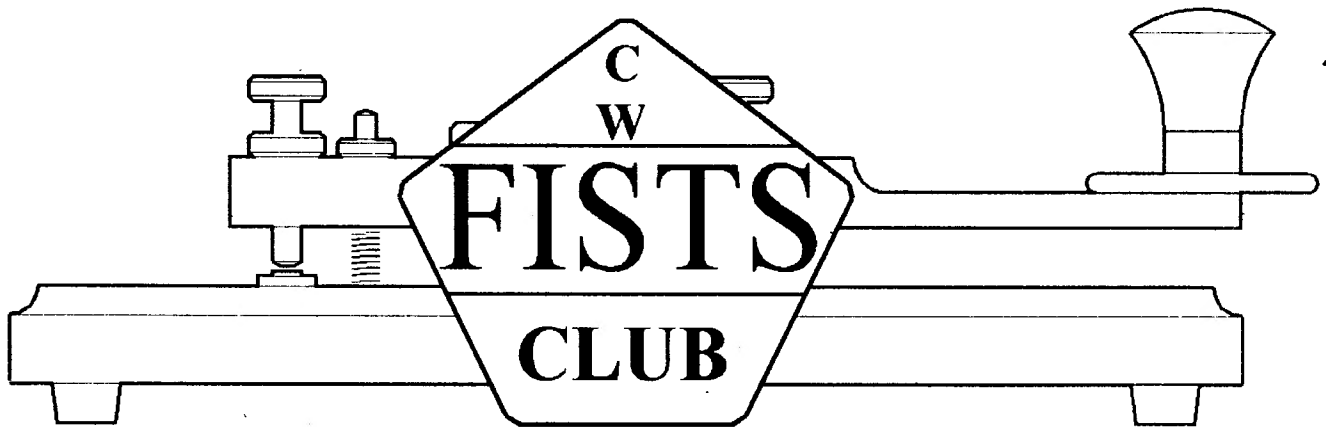


# The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club  
The active chapter of the International Morse Preservation Society

“Accuracy Transcends Speed”



## Our Goals:

- ✕ Further the use of CW
- ✕ Encourage newcomers to use Morse code
- ✕ Engender friendships among members

**“When You’ve Worked A FISTS, You’ve Worked A Friend.”**

**When you have a question about FISTS, go to the source for the correct answer.**

**Posting a question on a chat room or email reflector may result in a lot of opinions, but your best bet is to ask a FISTS volunteer, look in the reference issue, or on our web page <http://www.fists.org>**

**Please put the word 'FISTS' somewhere in the title of your email.  
This will help the volunteer recognize that your email is important and not spam.**

**For questions about:**

**Awards and Certificates contact  
Dennis Franklin, K6DF, [fistsawards@comcast.net](mailto:fistsawards@comcast.net)**

**The QSL Bureau contact  
Stan Reas, K4UK, [k4uk@rev.net](mailto:k4uk@rev.net)**

**Our club call KN0WCW contact  
Karl Zuege, KB1DSB, [kb1dsb@sover.net](mailto:kb1dsb@sover.net).**

**The membership roster, call changes, name changes contact  
Ed Hayes, N7CFA, [n7cfa@msn.com](mailto:n7cfa@msn.com)**

**To get an application or sample Keynote sent to a friend contact  
Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, [aa9ls@turbotoads.com](mailto:aa9ls@turbotoads.com)**

**Web page changes, getting your personal or club webpage linked, etc contact  
Webmaster Bill Myers, KK4KF, [kk4kf@cox.net](mailto:kk4kf@cox.net)**

**Club presentation packets contact  
Joe Spencer, KK5NA, [kk5na@kk5na.com](mailto:kk5na@kk5na.com)**

**To change or include your email address on the FISTS email list contact  
Kathi Hilton, N0FKA, [fistelist@comcast.net](mailto:fistelist@comcast.net) (note no "s" in fistelist)**

**Code Buddy volunteers and buddies contact  
Nick Yokanovich, K3NY, & The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club,  
[w3hem@arrl.net](mailto:w3hem@arrl.net)**

**Sprints contact  
Dan Sheperd, N8IE, [W8PIG@yahoo.com](mailto:W8PIG@yahoo.com)**

**Get Your Feet Wet Weekend and G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest contact  
Lee Hallin, N7NU, [hallinl@lanecc.edu](mailto:hallinl@lanecc.edu)**

**All other questions, including supplies, tapes for the blind, address changes, general membership questions and articles for the Keynote contact Nancy Kott WZ8C, [nancy@tir.com](mailto:nancy@tir.com); PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440, phone 810-797-2033, fax 810-797-5808.**



# KEY NOTE



## OFFICES

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Thornaby, TS17 0LT

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Recommended calling QRGs:

3.558, 7028, 10.118, 14.058,  
21.058, 28.058

## AWARDS

E-mail apps/logs to Chuck M0AVW

<fistsawards@comcast.net>

Written logs to HQ No charges and no  
return envelope required.

## Contacts

Membership Manager : **Mandy Spence**

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TS17 0LT

**SUBS:** Email Keynote £5.00. UK mail £6.00, EEC mail £8.00 others £11.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS and sent to M0AVW (address on banner)

**Please include your CALLSIGN, name, FISTS No** on all correspondence and on the back of any cheques.

## Useful contacts:

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M0ZAK <jim.stel@ntlworld.com>

M0BMN 01902-338973 <paul@m0bm.co.uk >

## QSL BUREAU

**All outgoing QLSs to M0AVW** (address on banner)

UK members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:

**M or 2 Prefixes** (Except for Wales) **M0AY1**, 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.

**G0,GM0 etc** (Except for GW0), **G3JRY**, 3 Rochford Crescent BOSTON, PE21 9AE.

**G3, GM3 etc** (Except for GW3) **G0UQF**, 2 East St. Dartfield, BARNESLEY, S73 9AE

**G4, GM4 etc.** (Except for GW4) **M0ZAK**, 6 Central Ave, SHEPHERDSDEN, LE12 9HP.

**G1,G2,G5,G6,G7,G8** (Except for Wales) and ALL Special (GB etc) calls to **M0BPT**, 38 Whearley St. WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ

**All members in Wales to M0AVW** (address on banner)

**EU/DX Members:IRCs** UK Banknotes, US Dollars or Euros to M0AVW. The club will provide envelopes. Also, any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised

reminders that we sent out, FISTS is really looking much fitter now than it has for a few years and we are getting Many more new members joining us. This can only be a good thing for CW and the Radio hobby as a whole, we have also had a number of people say that the larger font size is much better for them and so we will be sticking with it from now on. Anyway onto the articles and some very important news about some big changes to Keynote.

## Major Changes under way

Now I'm sure that this will upset a few people and also others will welcome it and say its over due. But..... (Insert Drum role here) we are going to make keynotes even better than it is now, "impossible" I hear you cry! Well since we have many larger items that just can not fit in the 4 pages we have now and in each edition we waste nearly one page with the standard header, subs details and QSL information, not to mention new members details (which are getting more and more of) we have decided to produce Keynote in an A5 booklet (in the same way that G-QRP and many other clubs do) this will give us some breathing room, we can then include Bobs Contest newsletter "brasspounder", more technical stuff, antenna advice, sections tuned more to what people want to see, to start with we will have a total of 24 pages to play with and I'm sure you will find it a much more interesting read than the current version. The draw back from this change is that we will only produce it quarterly so rather than getting keynotes every 4 or 5 weeks it will be every 3 months but it will be of a much higher quality content, it will still retain its friendly banter and old favourites like Geo's "Strawberry Basket" will be reappearing (for those that can remember it) plus new sections like Sales and Wants. The content will be CW oriented, it will not be allowed to become just another general magazine, we can give you a "No Microphone" guarantee! Hi, the new format will be available in both paper and email form and it is hoped that the first edition will be out for spring 2007, and then followed by the summer, Autumn, and Winter editions, this change will NOT increase the subscription cost to members.

That's change number 1, Now change number 2

Upto now members subs have been due at the anniversary date of joining, this has given us many problems in the past and made it harder for members to know when their next payment was due, we are going to simplify things, ALL membership fees will be due on the first of April each year, don't panic, we have a way of making sure it doesn't cost you more money if you have paid up to a date past April.

## Hello from the Editor

Well its October and the nights are already drawing in, I hope conditions are going to improve now on 80m for us, its been pretty bad here. Its been a busy couple of months, finally got the building work done and I have a nice new workshop fitted with a bench drill, grinder and sanding belt. I have now been taken on permanently by the council as a ICT support officer and work 3 days a week doing this role (by choice) which give me some time to help the wife out with my son and a bit of time to "play" radio. We took our little touring Caravan down to Brean Sands over the last few weeks and now have it stored down there ready to use when ever we want, nice and easy to get to for me only a couple of hours drive and we are there, now just got to think about leaving a radio down there. Maybe one of the small qrp radios that I got in for our club project may be the ideal thing and a simple fishing pole vertical for the antenna, I'll have to have a play and see. Anyway I was pleased to see that a few people have sent in articles for this months keynote and that a good number of people responded to the subscription

This will only effect members when they come to renew their membership, see the table below for payment details

The figures are percentage of your normal subs so for example someone that needs to renew in Sept 07 would pay 50% of their normal payment at that time and then their renewal date will be 1st April from then on.

Renewal date between Now and April 07 :-	100%
Renewal between May and July 07 :-	75%
Renewal between August and October 07:-	50%
Renewal between November and Dec 07 :-	25%

After this payment your subs will always be due 1st April and we will be sending a reminder with the winter edition of keynotes together with a standing order form to allow automatic easy payments straight from your bank or building society in future. (no more forgotten renewals) We will included a letter explaining this better with the next keynote so don't worry.

This will make our lives much easier and we will be able to budget better for the following year.

I am sure that some will not like these changes but we hope that the majority of our members can see the sense in these changes and that they will help bring FISTS into a new league.

Thanks Paul.M0BMN Editor

Well that's something for you to think about isn't it, so on with the rest of the newsletter.

### Very High Frequency Morse

If you thought activity was bad on the VHF/UHF Bands then try Light Frequency! No just kidding really but Jorn as just sent me details of his free Heliograph/Aldis lamp simulator for the PC and his new UltraMorse teaching package that is also free. He would be greatful for any feed back from users, His software can be found at

<http://home.no.net/fenja256/superaldis/> and <http://home.no.net/fenja256/ultramorse/>  
let him know what you think.

### One for the Diary

Derrick M0BDD said hello to us at the Leicester Rally and asked us to come and sign his FISTS Visitor book , so first let me say sorry since both John and myself where that busy we never got over to sign his book. Also he has informed me to another rally he will be at, the Barnsley Ham Fest on the 12th November. The Keynote visitors book will be open on the R.S.A.R.S stand so any members will get a welcome and be able to sign the book.

Thanks for the effort Derrick

### August Ladder

Well the ladder was not the best one I have ever tried to take part in, wall to wall RTTY ! I was intending to run a QRS station on 40m but had no chance with the high power RTTY stations there, in the end I ran out of time and only had a quick QSO on 80m with Peter G4LHI, from the mails I have received I know I'm not the only one that had problems...

Hi Paul

Just 3 qso's on Sunday afternoon on 80m to Peter G4LHI, the other Peter M5ABN/P and Bryan G0GSY. QSB bad at times, 73 de Mark M0CMQ/7701.

Several calls here on 20 30 40 and 80 but no result at all then S9SS for compensation on 30m, not bad with my indoor LW.

Better luck next time. 73 Fred PA0FAW

### Anyone Help?

I have been working with Stan (K4UK) trying to gather together a complete archive of FISTS members since the clubs inception. However as is always the case some 63 numbers are still proving elusive to trace and I wonder if you would find a little space in KEY NOTE, or the FISTS web page to cast the net further?

DX - Blocks refer to non USA members but any number/call sign connected with the 63 is of interest as the same numbers were allocated for a period of time to both USA and European club members.

I am more than willing to field the replies to this challenge via < [g3uaa@x5g.com](mailto:g3uaa@x5g.com) > It maybe that on the web the replies of most interest come from the number holders themselves!

73 de "Alf Ramsey (FISTS 5519 CC#944)

#### Missing Prior to Blocks (47)

157	188	206	392	394	396	397	400	401	447
450	451	452	453	454	457	458	459	460	461
462	468	469	470	473	474	475	476	479	481
482	490	494	529	573	574	575	580	582	585
589	590	592	594	596	790	928			

#### Missing DX- Blocks (14)

1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089
1090	1093	1094	1095	1607				

#### Missing US-Blocks (2)

1049	1200
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### Mablethorpe Show

I have received a email from Nev G3VDV 09815 about the Mablethorpe show that his radio club attended and the good work they did promoting CW.

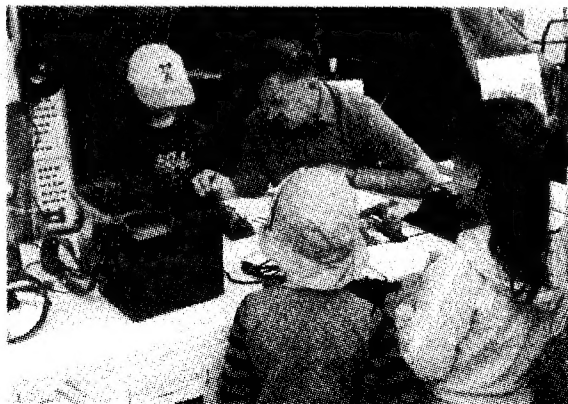


Photo with Mayor:- left to right Malc G3ZUI, Town Mayor, Councillor Bernard Dobbs, Colin G3NRQ.

The Eagle Radio Group (MX0ERG) 09838 is a radio group on the Lincolnshire coast. We meet once a month at the Eagle Hotel in Mablethorpe, and we have about 40-plus members who live in the surrounding area. We have a fair number of CW operators, ex-navy and of course ex-Humber Radio among them.

We hold quite a few public events throughout the year, but our main showcase is the Mablethorpe Show which takes place in July on the Tennyson School playing field. Most of the public services are represented (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard, Lifeboat etc.), along with all the local charities and voluntary organisations.

In the past we have tried various ideas to interest the public, particularly the young. Two years ago we had a visit from the RSGB's Funbus (GB4FUN), and last year we went 'hi-tech' with computers and data modes. We decided this year to go hands-on, 'low-tech'. Small certificates were awarded to people who successfully sent their names in Morse. The response by all age groups well exceeded our expectations.



There was a lot of interest from young people of both sexes, and it was interesting to see how rapidly they achieved the correct rhythm and spacing. We had a few surprises - a nun who was very much at home on the key (Girl Guide training), and a few WW2 radio operators who had not lost it. Altogether we gave out over 120 certificates; I had to make a quick trip home to print more! There was often a queue, and people were able to practise using our collection of Morse keys while they waited.

We were very pleased with the exhibition, and have gained at least one new group member as a result of the event. Some members of the group would like to repeat the idea next year. Why not? It's the best response we have ever had. LONG LIVE MORSE  
de G3VDV Nev 09815

**FISTS Rally at Donington great success!**

Early in September John (M0CDL) and My Self set sail for the donington rally, we got there at about 8am on Friday morning and found our little corner table plot, we set up a "Test Your Morse" station that allowed people to send Morse via straight key and a Laptop PC was being used to decode what was sent. Many people where surprised by their "Quality" of sending with a straight key but really it was just a bit of fun, We had around 45 members visit the stand over the two days and sign our visitors book which was great, it gave us a chance to chat and hear peoples views, we ran ideas past people (like the A5 Booklet) and it gave us feedback

That made us think it was a good idea. One problem we had was people had a hard time finding us there, it's a BIG rally and despite us having two tables people only found us by accident, its become clear that we need to get a Banner made up for future shows.

We must have given out 60-100 membership forms over the 2 days so lets hope we get some of them back filled in!, we also got a number of new members signed up there and then.



On the second day we had a visit from the Huntingdon Mob. Which was really nice as it let me put faces to people that I have only worked on air, well done lads and thanks for making the day so enjoyable. I for one will be looking forward to the next rally.

**Chuck M0AVW recalls a Telephone call with Geo .....**

Here is a funny for the keynote, after we had got back from the Dominican Republic last year I phoned Geo and told him about our holiday, about the horse riding we had done through the jungle, rain forests, and rivers etc I also told him about the facilities on the hotel site one of which was a full size high trapeze which I went on after a load lot of pressure from our kids. I went on it and even swung by my legs to a big applause from the on looking crowd.

Geo's reply was "great chuck, do you know when I was younger I was a tight rope walker" well I was totally gob smacked and said if we had met years ago we could have had our own circus hi.

That sounds like Geo ! Paul

**Congratulations! To Granddad Chuck**

Chuck and Mandys first grand daughter Bethan was born on the 7th Sept, 9.25am 6lbs 12oz at home, to Amanda their daughter and partner Chris. Mother and baby doing very well.



left to right Amanda Chucks daughter and Bailey 1 year 5 months, Chuck and Bethan the day she was born 31/8/06 the latest arrival in the centre, and Mandy and Owen 3 years 4 months on the right.

I'm sure you will all join me in sending best wishes to the new arrival and the family!



## Well Done Peter !

G4LHI who must be known to most active FISTS contestants was given a surprise at the Donnington Rally this year when he was awarded with a certificate to recognise his efforts in teaching Morse for the last 25 years and his service to Amateur Radio. Seen here is The editor of Practical Wireless making the award to Peter.



Well done Peter you deserve it!

## VK Visitors

Chuck MOAVW and Mandy had a welcome visit from some friends from downunder, FISTS downunder!



The Vk FIST Visit, left to right is Mandy, Chuck - MOAVW, Carol and Chris VK3CGB FISTS 9087

"We had a great time, a good chat about radio, good food, and Chris even had some of the world famous home brew (beer) HI. They liked our 2 black labs, Ruby and Poppy and went up to see our horses Edward and Berry."

Sounds like it was a good meeting and good time was had by all. Just wondering if that Homebrew travels well, say down to the Midlands. (Ed)

## Club Project

The Club project of building a simple transceiver seems to have gone well with nearly everyone finishing theirs and finding that they work very well, I still have my 40m kit in the bag and have not found time to start it yet. Maybe over Christmas! (I Hope). I will run the project again next year for those that missed out this time so if you want to take advantage of the next batch of kits let me know.

## QSL Cards and Badges

We are now just finalising a deal to get us some great QSL cards, the back will be preprinted just like the old FISTS cards but the front can be anything you want from just a simple logo to a full colour photo type card, more on this in the next edition, we also have found a supplier for enamelled metal FISTS badges just like the old ones, more on these later.

## Last Word

If you have anything for the next Keynote (the last before Christmas and in this format) please send any articles to me at the address on the banner.

## Report On Straight Key Week by Robert M0BPT

Quite a few FISTS members were active during the week but I've had a few comments from participants telling me how quite a few had forgotten that it was on, or didn't even know it was on!

I shall have to re-dress the issue of adequate publicity for next year.

I noticed from some logs received that Nancy WZ8C (FISTS USA) who was in Belize during the proceedings was worked using the call V31AN. Would imagine that some of the WARC entrants would have liked that one!

Also I see that Stan, K4UK, found his way in to peoples logs.

Well worthy of a mention is Erkki, OH7QR who while travelling to visit family in Sweden, still managed to get on air!

He managed to work members while at his home in Tuusniemi signing OH7QR,

While signing OH7QR/M at Alajanvi,

While signing SM/OH7QR/M at Umea

While signing SM/OH7QR/M at Kramfors.

He was active all seven days of the challenge!

Erkki was using a Yaesu FT897D with a Yaesu mobile whip coupled to a tuner. And a Lennart Pettersson key.

A report of the weeks activity by Peter, G3JFS

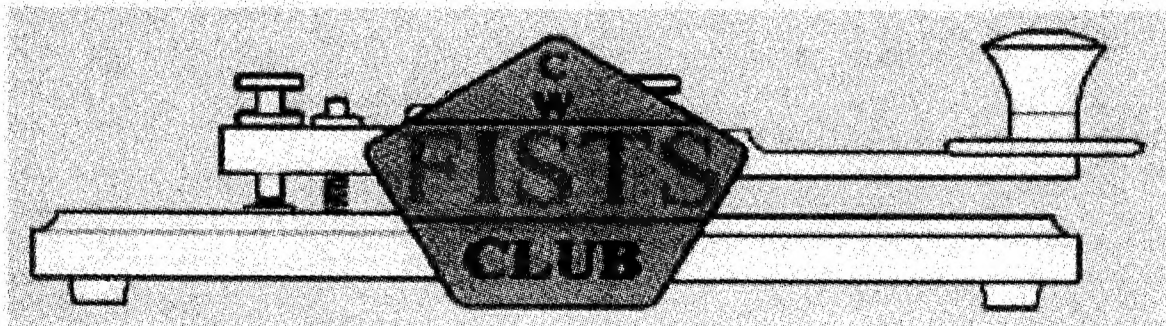
Conditions were lousy with very little short skip propagation in the daytime and deep qsb on the few signals that did appear. Activity by Fists members was disappointing but I worked several who either didn't know about the SKW or were using a paddle and didn't know they still gave points to straight key users. That might account for the low level of activity as several people said they do not own a straight key. I lost count of the number of cq calls that I put out on the Fists frequencies without a reply. In all I had 31 'Fists' contacts with 25 different members out of a total of 120 contacts. Evening time on 80m was the best for working members. 15 and 10m were dead when I listened and I had only one qso on 15m. Best dx was Ron, ZL1AMO, a non-member, on 40m and a few USA stations on 20m.

My key is a 'Raymart Speed Key' bought in 1947 when I first started to learn Morse code. I'm not sure exactly how much it cost but it was about 10/- (= 50p) and as a 12-yr old schoolboy I had to save a few weeks pocket money to pay for it. Like its owner it is now showing its age but still works and was a good investment. Since retiring 11 yrs ago it has been used to make over 37,000 contacts. It has also been around the world a couple of times and seen 'service' in the UK, W. Australia, Nigeria, Kenya and Germany.

Straight on to the results.

SKW	SEPT	2006	
CALL		POINTS	
G4LHI		162	Congratulations to Peter, G4LHI who managed to claim 1st place by the narrowest of margins.
G3JFS		151	Also congratulations to Peter, G3JFS who came in a very close 2nd to G4LHI.
IK2RMZ		98	And congratulations to Martin, IK2RMZ for 3rd place.
M0DRK		56	Award certificates to the top three.
G0GSY		49	Thanks for your support...
G0RDO		49	Robert, M0BPT
OH7QR		48	
M5ABN		42	
G8XGQ		24	
2E0TEK		24	
M0CMQ		10	

International Morse Preservation Society  
FISTS  
East Asia Chapter  
**morsEAsia**  
October 2006



**FISTS EA Newsletter # 12**

**Editor; Leo H Tsukada, JJ8KGZ E-mail; [jj8kgz@fists-ea.org](mailto:jj8kgz@fists-ea.org)**

**Explanation of the photo above:**

Manabu, JJ2MED and Taro, JR0QWW and their families came to Memuro, where Leo, JJ8KGZ lives and they stayed at a cottage a night on the first weekend of August. It was the first time for them to meet face to face but it was proved that "the friends on the air could be also good friends on the earth". They enjoyed QRV with their QRP rigs from the cottage. Besides, taking care of their families was sort of the main purpose, so they went sightseeing in Tokachi area and had a BBQ in the yard of the cottage, fireworks at night and enjoyed talking till late night.

### From the Editor's Desk.

Seems that the band condition is changing gradually, and we can hear some signals from Europe on 40m in early mornings. Being hectic, I could not have time to spare to edit this news letter for these months. Sorry that I kept you waiting. In this issue, there are some news that makes you happy because we have consecutively 5 new members who joined our club this summer and I can inform you that there were a couple of eye-ball meetings, which the members got gathered had boosted their friendships in this summer. See you on the air.  
de JJ8KGZ

## FISTS EA News.

### New Members

From July to October, FISTS EA consecutively had 5 new members including 2 YLs. Their call signs and names are listed below. We are very happy to have them and welcome them. Plus, we'll never forget to encourage them to be on the air.

- # 15024 Rie, JN1XLV (YL)
- # 15025 Isao, JQ2SFZ
- # 15026 Masa, JJ1IZW
- # 15027 Ora, SWL in JA8 (YL)
- # 15028 Yama, 7K1CPT

Ora is an SWL who lives in Memuro, Hokkaido and she is planning to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade amateur license while studying in her high school. She loves to learn CW and borrowed FT817 from her English teacher and enjoys listening to the bands.

You can read comments of some of the new members here.

### Greeting from the new members.

Isao Saito, JQ2SFZ, # 15025

Hello FISTS,  
I'm Isao Saito resides in Minokamo City, Gifu pref. Reading the Web log of Leo, JJ8KGZ and his enthusiasm on chatting in English triggered my interest in CW operating and I tried to have an examination of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade HAM license last year. I could pass the exam and now I am bearing my callsign JQ2SFZ. But unfortunately, Leo has stopped writing his web log and I was so disappointed. One day, I asked Leo if he could have schedule QSOs with me and he replied "Yes". He is kind enough to have those schedule QSOs with me every night and I'm learning how to communicate in English utilizing CW. My dream is to talk with stations all over the world with CW. See you on the air!  
73 de JQ2SFZ



Rie Hosoyama, JN1XLV, # 15024

Hi, Guys, I am Rie in Kanagawa, Japan. I am mainly on 50MHz band, and often on 430MHz FM as well as 7/14/21MHz SSB and CW by up to 200W. I like to participate contests! Especially, to join CW contest by Manual Key is my best favorite. I'm afraid; I'm not good at speaking English. However, I would like to contact with you, folks. Thank you in advance if you can be QSO with me.

Sincerely,  
Rie, JN1XLV



"Ora" Kyoko Sekizawa # 15027

Hi, FISTS members,  
I'm Kyoko Sekizawa living in Memuro, Hokkaido Japan. I really want to learn morse code and would like to be licensed amateur radio station near future. At this moment, my dad told me to study hard at my high school and he promised me that he would buy a radio when I pass the entrance exam of a university. My handle name Ora means "Me" in a dialect Japanese and I like it. When I am on the air, I will use this handle and make CW contacts with a lot of stations overseas. My tutor lent me FT-817 and a straight key so I could hear some CW QSOs with it and I can practice my keying. See you on the air in the future!

73 & 88 de Ora

<http://www.feacw.net/>  
<http://www.fists-ea.org/>



## Visiting in Hokkaido

By Taro, JR0QWW, #5578

This summer, I went to Hokkaido with my family. The one purpose of this trip was to have eyeball meeting with Leo-san, JJ8KGZ and Manabu-san, JI2MED. Although I had watched Leo-san's voice, I met with him on Aug 4 for the first time. He was the just person I have imagined. He and his family were so kind that we were eager for more staying in Memuro. We firstly met JI2MED, Manabu-san too, and we have a precious time for ham life. The beautiful sky, spacious field, rustic scenery, everything in Hokkaido was precious memory for our family. Especially, my daughter loved Leo-san's children, Taiga and Leo, because of similar age. The firework at midnight, and night sky full of stars notably impressed my children. The next day of meeting, we were on the air using own antenna and own gear. I used full size DP, which feeding point was lower than Manabu-san's antenna, and it was the reason of my weak signal.

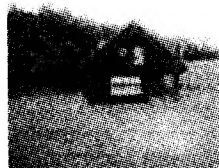
Someday, my family and I want to go to Memuro, and to meet Leo-san's family again. I want to enjoy the radio to my heart's content in wide field like Hokkaido.

## Having Friends in my QTH

By Leo, JJ8KGZ, # 4843

As Taro mentioned above, I had a visit of my friends Taro, JR0QWW and Manabu, JI2MED with their families on the first weekend of August. They were so lucky to have beautiful sunny days in Hokkaido and they enjoyed staying at a cottage that I reserved for them. We went sightseeing, enjoyed BBQ, fireworks and of course, CW! They installed their wire antenna and QRP rigs.

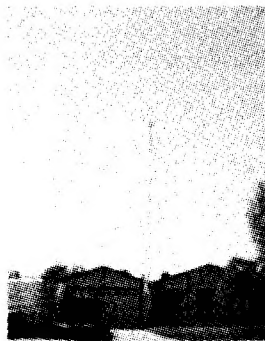
Taro got his FT817 and Manabu brought his KX1 and K1. First time for me to hear the CW sound of K1 and it was great! Their wives and kids were all get along with my wife and children and they had a precious time together. Especially, fireworks under the beautiful star lights were so impressive to them.



Next day, the field day contest was held in Japan and Taro and Manabu took part in from the cottage with their QRP rigs. I brewed some fresh hot coffee for them and went to their cottage with the coffee in that early morning. While I was driving to the cottage from my home, I heard JI2MED/8 calling CQ on 17m and I thought "Gee, they've already got up!" and called him to say "good morning"! Sipping a cup of coffee or two, they had some QSOs with their friends. And we all checked in the FISTS EA CW NET on 40M at 8 in the morning. Those two days with them in Memuro, my QTH, were so enjoyable and my family and I were really happy to meet them for the first time and boosted our friendship together. I appreciate their visit!

Sep.7 to 14, I stayed in the city of Tracy, CA as a chaperone of delegations in a sister city program between Memuro, Hokkaido, my QTH and Tracy. The program went very well. Staying at homes of the citizens of Tracy, we had a wonderful time there. In the welcome party, I could reunite with a friend who had stayed my home also in an exchange program several years ago. On the last day of our stay, we were supposed to visit San Francisco for shopping with some members of Tracy sister city association. But I could have a chance to skip that schedule and visit a Ham in Livermore. Seemed that the other members of the delegation got used to go shopping alone with their limited English speaking skills and I thought there would be no problem at all to act for myself for a day.

Actually, Shin, JA1NUT not a member of FISTS but FOC and well known CW operator, told me that he would introduce a friend of him to me if I could spare time in that itinerary. Larry, W4UAT who resides in Livermore is his old friend and he emailed him to arrange my eyeball meeting. In the morning of Sep.10, Larry came to pick me up at the parking lot of city hall. Giving me a ride on his red Dodge, he took me to his house in Livermore.



He's got this great StepIR 4 element beam and fine rigs at home. We enjoyed taking and it was so interesting to hear the story how he made a lot of friends through Ham radio. He was kind enough to let me operate from his shack. My first experience of operating in the US was so exciting. I could work with W5AB, W9LHG, WIBFN, KMIL and some of them were FISTS members.



Larry, W4UAT

The highlight of the QSO was that I could work with a friend in Japan. Sugi, JK7UST called me with his dipole and his RST was 579 to 599. It was very good time visiting Larry at his shack and I want to say "thank you" to Larry and of course, Shin, JA1NUT for this wonderful experience.

## QSO with V31EA

By Naoyasu Hosoda, JO3HPM, # 15008

When I read the FEA news about the V31 DXpedition by four FISTS members, there was an interesting comment; "They look forward to working many EA FISTS!" So I simply thought it must be anywhere in the Western Pacific near East Asia and I wanted to work them. At first, I didn't know where V31 was. But I soon learned that it is in Central America and 12600 km - far away from Japan. On Friday night, Sep 8 1100Z, I heard a JA pile up calling V31EA at 40m. But I couldn't copy V31EA's signal. My antenna is a 9m long wire with an SG-230 auto tuner. It has poor sensitivity for receiving DX stations.

On Sunday night, Sep 10, I looked for stations that were trying to work in the International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest. When I tuned 7.0285 MHz, I heard a weak but clear call "CQ FS de V31EA". Strange to say, nobody called him at that time. So I called him with a beating heart. "QRZ?" he replied. I sent my call, name and FISTS number many times. Maybe it took more than 5 minutes till he could confirm all. I would like to say thank you to Cal White, WF5W who worked my weak signal with great patience. Also I say "thank you" to all the glass arm DXpedition members. This became my first Belize!

## QTC 1

### FISTS EA QSL BUREAU CHANGED

Harry, JL3AMK is the QSL manager of FEA QSL Bureau now since Naka, JM6FMW who has been the QSL manager is very busy on his business. Your QSL cards should be sent to the mailing address below.

Thank you.

Akinori Harry SHIBATA, JL3AMK  
4-34-10-203 Senriyama-Nishi, Suita City,  
OSAKA 565-0851 JAPAN

## QTC 2

### New Club callsign was issued and Name of a club changed

#### New Club

# 15300 JL3YOC FISTS JA QRP CW CLUB  
Representative Harry, JL3AMK

#### Club name change

# 15200 A1 CLUB (ex. JARL A1 CLUB)

## FISTS EA Activities

### Suggested Calling Frequencies

You can find FISTS members on/near following recommended calling frequencies.  
QSO's should be QSY'd another frequency.

FISTS	160m	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m	2m
<u>East Asia</u>	-	-	-	10.118 10.138 (*1)	14.058	18.085	21.058	24.918	28.058 28.158 (*2)	-	-
HQ/Europe	-	3.558	7.028	-	14.058	-	21.058	-	28.058	-	-
North America	1.808	3.558 3.708	7.028 7.058 7.118	10.118	14.058	18.085	21.058 21.158	24.918	28.058 28.158	50.058	144.058
Down Under	1.808	3.528	7.028	10.118	14.058	18.085	21.058 21.158	24.918	28.058 28.158	-	-
QRP calling freqs (*3)	-	-	-	10.106 10.116	14.060	18.086 18.096	21.060 21.110	24.906 24.910	28.060 28.110	-	-

(\*1) BV [Taiwan] stations are allowed to use 10.130 to 10.150.

(\*2) BV [Taiwan] stations are allowed to use above 28.100.

(\*3) International QRP calling frequencies are neighborhood.

## FISTS EA CW NET RESULTS

No.	Date (Y/M/D)	Time (UTC)	Freq. (MHz)	Controller	Participant
94-2	2006/10/8	none	none	none	none
94-1	2006/10/7	2300-2340	7.0015	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JR7OEF(Nori), JO3HPM(Nao), JK7UST(Sugi)
93-2	2006/10/1	0800-0835	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	BX2AH(Chen), VK2FDU/4(John), JQ2SFZ(Isao)
93-1	2006/9/30	2300-2315	7.027	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JO3HPM(Nao)
92-2	2006/9/24	0800-0840	14.055	JO3HPM(Nao)	BX2AH(Chen)
92-1	2006/9/23	2300-2340	7.0258	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JG0SXC(Man)
91-2	2006/9/17	0800-0840	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	JF3KNW(Nobu)

91-1	2006/9/16	2300-2400	7.0255	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JO3HPM(Nao),JG0SXC(Man),JF3KNW(Nobu)
90-2	2006/9/10	0800-0830	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	BX2AH(Chen)
90-1	2006/9/9	2300-2350	7.028	JO3HPM(Nao)	JG0SXC(Man)
89-2	2006/9/3	0800-0840	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	JE1TRV(Atsu), BX2AH(Chen)
89-1	2006/9/2	2300-2400	7.0265	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JJ8KGZ(Leo), JO3HPM(Nao), JE1TRV(Atsu)
88-2	2006/8/27	0800-0840	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	BX2AH(Chen), JF3KNW(Nobu)
88-1	2006/8/26	2300-2400	7.002	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JE1TRV(Atsu), JO3HOM(Nao), JJ1IZW(Masa)
87-2	2006/8/20	0800-0825	14.065	JO3HPM(Nao)	none
87-1	2006/8/19	none	none	none	none
86-2	2006/8/13	0800-0845	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	JK7UST(Sugi), BX2AH(Chen)
86-1	2006/8/12	2300-2405	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JA1NUT(Shin), JO3HPM(Nao), JG0SXC(Man), JO3FUO(Kenji), JE1TRV(Atsu)
85-2	2006/8/5	0800-0845	14.056	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JE1TRV(Atsu)
85-1	2006/8/4	2300-2400	7.008	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JJ8KGZ(Leo), JR0QWW/8(Taro), JI2MED/8(Manabu), JE1TRV(Atsu), JF3KNW(Nobu), JJ1IZW(Masa)
84-2	2006/7/30	0800-0915	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	JQ2SFZ(Isao), BX2AH(Chen), JE1TRV(Atsu)
84-1	2006/7/29	2300-2415	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JO3HPM(Nao), JK7UST(Sugi), JE1TRV(Atsu), JJ1IZW(Masa), JQ2SFZ(Isao)
83-2	2006/7/23	0800-0830	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	JR0QWW/0(Taro), UR7FM/MM(Genn), JE1TRV(Atsu)
83-1	2006/7/22	2300-2400	18.084	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JJ8KGZ(Leo), JO3HPM(Nao), JE1TRV(Atsu), JA1IVL(Tom), JL3AMK(Harry)
82-2	2006/7/16	0800-0850	14.053	JO3HPM(Nao)	none
82-1	2006/7/15	2300-2410	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JK7UST(Sugi), JO3HPM(Nao), JE1TRV(Atsu)
81-2	2006/7/9	none	none	none	none
81-1	2006/7/8	2300-2340	7.024	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JO3HPM(Nao), JJ8KGZ(Leo), JE1TRV(Atsu)
80-2	2006/7/2	0800-0845	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John), JF3KNW(Nobu)
80-1	2006/7/1	2300-2330	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JO3HPM(Nao)

## FISTS EA MAR RANKING

FISTS EA Most Active Ragchewer in 2006

Last Update: 2006 Oct 11

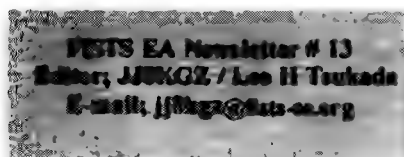
Rank	Call	Name	Point	Comment	Reporting date (Y/M/D)
1	JO3HPM	Nao	203	64 FEA NET. My longest chat time is 150 min with JL8MIL(Jun).	2006/10/11
2	JJ8KGZ	Leo	195		2006/7/14
3	JE1TRV	Atsu	97	I'm chasing Nao and Leo, but they seem still far beyond my socre. I'll keep my pace. Have fun ! :-)	2006/7/14
4	JK7UST	Sugi	62	JA 11, DX 10, FISTS(without JR0QWW) 69, JR0QWW SKD 12	2006/7/15
5	JI2MED	Manabu	57	One HB9 stn said in our QSO on 30 May 2006 on 30m that he had a little snow in his location with 3c only! Also said being high is not only the attitude but tax as well in HB9 land.	2006/6/6
6	JG0MWU	Ken	37	Jul.17 JA6AER 12M ABT MY QSL CRD IS PRINTED WID MY CARS PHOTO ----- SUM OF JUL.2006 = 1pt.	2006/8/6

International Morse Preservation Society  
FISTS  
East Asia Chapter



# morsEAsia

November 2006



<http://www.feacw.net/>  
<http://www.fists-ea.org/>

## From the Editor's Desk

Leo H Tsukada / JJ8KGZ

jj8kgz@fists-ea.org

### Good season

As the sun spot number bottomed out, we rarely have DX contacts on high bands with our tiny antenna systems. 10m has been dead for several years and the path between East Asia and the US on 15m fades out in a short time in the mornings. But crispy air in autumn season conjure up our experiences that we constantly had QSOs with DX stations in the previous sun spot cycle. After lunch on Oct.29, about 1300JST, I was supposed to call CQ with my QRP on 7.026MHz. When I stretched my hand to my Mercury paddle, I heard a weak but stable signal. I cocked up my ears...It was W7QC chatting with a station in W8. I was sort of familiarized with his CW sound which utilizes his PIC keyer and I was sure that it was his signal. Amazing! It was the first time for me to hear a signal from the US in such early afternoon. I had a fixed idea that we can hear signals from the US on 40m only between the early evening and midnight. When I wrote about it on my weblog, Shin, JA1NUT gave me a comment that he used to hear Ws on 40m in the early afternoons and even in the mornings when the band condx was good in the past decades. His comment dispelled my stereotypes. And I was excited to think that we are surely having a DX season now. I can say...the mysterious propagation of HF really captivates us.

See you on the air.

de JJ8KGZ

### .... -. What's going on in Japan? .... -. .

#### Lawsuit brought against government over PLC by 100 or more HAMs

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan (MIC) revised a part of their ministerial ordinance on October 4<sup>th</sup> to amend a code of radio facilities without providing any straight answers to the questions which had been repeatedly asked by specialists. This revision of the rules leads a possibility to use PLC modems under their type approval. Under this revision of the ministerial ordinance, the utilization of PLC modems is confined to be only indoors but it does not make any differences and it is obvious that we, amateur radio stations, will have significant interference from those PLC modems. The high frequency wave provided to unbalanced power lines is easily radiated from the lines because the length of indoor wirings are quite similar to that of HF antennas and this is clear from the sequence of concrete examples overseas.

Toshikazu Kusano, JA1ELY, the editor of "Five-nine DX magazine" and Teiichi Aoyama, JA1IDY, a professor of Musashi Institute of Technology pursue legal action against the minister of MIC to stop their model specification of the PLC modems which transmit and receive signals on the carrier wave in the range from 2MHz to 30MHz.

JA1ELY recruited other HAMs to form the plaintiffs group for trial on the internet and over 100 HAMs applied to be the one of the plaintiffs. Each of them donates the cost of litigation and they are now mapping out a long-range strategy with their competent lawyers. Some of the FEA members also applied to be the claimant to get involved in this case and waiting for the mandate form from the professional representatives for the plaintiff.



### Messages from FEA members.

#### My Windmill

By Taro, JR0QWW# 5578

Hello, guys.

How about your radio life?

The other day, I went to a river bank of the Shinano River, and I turned my windmill. The wind blew through the river bank, and my windmill could turn smoothly. My another hobby is to turn the windmill.



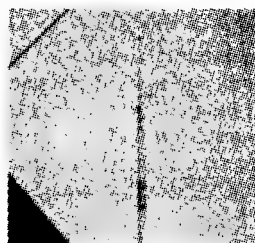
It's a kind of "soothing relief" for me. I set the Buddipole, and was on the air on 20m band, at last I caught the VK FISTS station. The QSO with DX FISTS was quite after long absence. Winter is coming soon. Although I like winter seasons, it is pity that I will not be able to have so much chance to QRV because of snow. Taro, JR0QWW (FISTS #5578, CC #1314)

#### My New Antenna

By Sugi, JK7UST #7178

I set up my new antenna on Oct.22. It's an HB9CV for 40m band. I built it from daybreak to 10 O'clock by myself. And at 10 O'clock, three local stations came to help me. They helped me build the rest of the process of the HB9CV and erected it on the top of my tower. It took 2 hours to complete. After I got the new antenna, I became capable of sending much stronger wave to Europe. For me, the Ural Mountains used to be a kind of barrier to reach EU, but I can overleap them now. I hope to see you on 40m.

73! de JK7UST Sugi





## A Message from a New Member

By 'Yama', Kiyoharu Yamada 7K1CPT #15028

Hello dear friends !

I joined Fists CW club in September 2006. I hope to enjoy CW QSOs and communication with many club members on the air and at ground meeting too. I'm living in an apartment house at Nerima-ku Tokyo. And my home has no ANT (Sometimes I set fishing rod wire antenna from window). So I often go to field to QRV. When I use my car, I set 10m pole and erect Dipole or another antenna on it. Full-size antenna works good job hi. I like to walk in nature. I sometimes go to mountains with small rigs and antenna in my DAY-PACK. It is good to see beautiful sights and QRV. I'm interested in QRP. Most of my operations I put less than 5 watts. Now my main rig is Elecraft K2. When I need a small baggage, I use K1, KX1 or Small Wonder Lab's kit, etc. Building kit rigs is fun for me. I want to QRV with home-brew rigs in the future.

I wish seeing you on the air my friends! 73



7K1CPT on Mt.Nabewari-yama

It's one of the peaks of Akagi mountains,  
1332m from sea level.



7MHz Vertical antenna on the mountain top.



Dipole antenna 3.5MHz-28MHz



Loop antenna (Main is 14MHz)

## A Trend in FISTS EA.

Weblogs multiplied like rabbits in the last few years. Due to their ease of creation compared to websites, weblogs have become a popular way of expressing opinions to the public online. Needless to say, a lot of FISTS EA members have their own weblogs and we enjoy reading them almost everyday. It's good to share opinions on certain things and sometimes they discuss with keen interests. For instance, topics about antenna, home brewing and how to improve their skills of head copying of CW. Here are the URLs of members' weblogs. You can see various pages of their sites but most of them are in Japanese. May be...you can expect some of their new weblogs to be updated in English...but... I'm not sure....

Atsu, JE1TRV #7763  
<http://cw.atwebby.info/>  
 Harry, JL3AMK #15002  
<http://jl3amk.blogspot.com/>  
 Sugi, JK7UST #7178  
<http://blogs.yahoo.co.jp/jk7cw/MYBLOG/blog.html>  
 Leo, JI8KGZ #4843  
<http://brasspounder2006.blog63.fc2.com/>  
 Manabu, JE1RZR ex. UK/JI2MED #15020  
<http://je1rzs.xsblog.jp/>  
 Taro, JR0QWW #5578  
<http://r0qwww.moc-nifty.com/qwwcw/>  
 Rie, JN1XLV #15024  
<http://www.taku27.jp/ham/>  
 Ken, JG0MWU #15015  
<http://kanaken.blog.shinobi.jp/>  
 Man, JG0SXC #8934  
<http://jg0sxc.blogspot.com/>  
 Jean, JL3SIK #9836  
<http://www.jl3sik.org/blog/>  
 Nori, JR7OEF #15022  
<http://jr7oef.xsblog.jp/>

## morsEAsia E-Mail Distribution

Harry, JL3AMK #15002 is planning to distribute our newsletter "morsEAsia" to FISTS members via e-mail. Please let him know your name, callsign (if you have), FISTS Number, and e-mail address. His e-mail address is <webadmin at fists-ea.org>.

## FISTS EA Activities

### Suggested Calling Frequencies

You can find FISTS members on/near following recommended calling frequencies  
 QSO's should be QSY'd another frequency

FISTS	160m	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m
<b>East Asia</b>	-	-	-	10.118 (±1)	10.138 14.058 (±1)	18.085	21.058	24.918	28.058 (±2)
<b>HQ/Europe</b>	-	3 558	7.028	-	14.058	-	21.058	-	28.058
<b>North America</b>	1 808	3 558 3 708	7 028 7 118	10.118	14 058	18 085	21 058 21 158	24 918	28 058 28 158
<b>Down Under</b>	1.808	3.528	7 028	10.118	14 058	18 085	21.058 21.158	24.918	28.058 28 158
<b>QRP calling freqs (±3)</b>	1810 1843	3540 3560	7030 7040	10 106 10 116	14 060	18 086 18 096	21 060 21 110	24 906	28 060 28 110

(\*1) BV [Taiwan] stations are allowed to use 10 130 to 10.150

(\*2) BV [Taiwan] stations are allowed to use above 28.100

(\*3) International QRP calling frequencies are neighborhood.

### FISTS East Asia CW Net

We have informal CW sessions for ANYONE who wants to practice English QSO

<b>When</b>	on Sundays @ East Asia between 7.025MHz and 7.030MHz, sometimes between 18.080MHz and 18.085MHz, or around 10.138MHz
<b>Part I</b>	starting 2300UTC on Saturdays (0700 Taiwan/Singapore Time, 0800 JST on Sundays) between 14.050MHz and 14.055MHz sometimes between 18.080MHz and 18.085MHz, or around 10.138MHz
<b>Part II</b>	starting 0800UTC on Sundays (1600 Taiwan/Singapore Time, 1700 JST on Sundays)
<b>Speed</b>	12WPM to 15WPM
<b>Controlled by</b>	Nao, JO3HPM. Sugi, JK7UST/JE7YTQ, and Chen, BX2AH
<b>Managed by</b>	Nao, JO3HPM
<b>Any other announcements</b>	might be posted to the FEA English BBS
<b>Results</b>	Click <a href="#">here</a> to show the results of past FEA CW Net

### FISTS EA NET Result

No.	Date (Y/M/D)	Time (UTC)	Freq (MHz)	Controller	Participant
98-2	2006/11/5	0800-0835	14.055	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John)
98-1	2006/11/4	2300-2420	7.002	JJ8KGZ(L.co)	JO3HPM(Nao), JE1TRV(Atsu), JE1RZR(Manabu), JQ2SFZ(Isao), 7K1CPI/I(Yama)
97-2	2006/10/29	0800-0830	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	VR2DL(Tat)
97-1	2006/10/28	2300-2429	7.027	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JJ8KGZ(L.co), JO3HPM(Nao), JE1TRV(Atsu), JL3SIK(Jean), JQ2SFZ(Isao)
96-2	2006/10/22	08005-0845	14.055	JE1RZR(Manabu)	VR2DL(Tat)
96-1	2006/10/21	2300-2400	7.026	JE1RZR(Manabu)	JJ8KGZ/M(L.co), JO3HPM/5(Nao), JE1TRV(Atsu)
95-2	2006/10/15	0800-0900	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John), JF3KNW(Nobu)
95-1	2006/10/14	2300-2408	7.026	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JJ8KGZ(L.co), JO3HPM(Nao), JG0SXC(Man)



# **FISTS DOWN UNDER**

## **Newsletter – November 2006**

Editor & QSL Manager for ZL: **Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, P.O. Box 15078, Otaki Railway, Otaki 5543, New Zealand.** Tel: 06-364-6339

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Membership/Awards Liaison: **Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH, 12c Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6011, New Zealand** Tel: 0-4-473-0847. Fax: 0-4-473-0848

QSL Manager for ZL6FF: **Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX** at address above.

QSL Manager for VK2FDU: **Chris Thompson VK2CTN** at address above

Address e-mails for all the above persons to: **fists-down-under@ihug.co.nz**

Web site – **www.fistsdownunder.org**



### **SUGGESTED FISTS CLUB H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES**

1.808kHz (160M) – 3528kHz (80M) – 7.028MHz (40M) – 10.118MHz (30M) – 14.058MHz (20M)  
18.085MHz (17M) – 21.058MHz (15M) – 24.918MHz (12M) – 28.058MHz (10M)

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once you establish contact with a station, it may be prudent to change frequency down the band, avoiding other calling frequencies of known clubs.

### **DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS**

Members have again been generous by including donations when renewing their subscriptions. Our thanks this month go to: - **ZL1BLR - Len # 9061, VK2IOW - Patrick # 9609, VK4IM - Adam #9619, ZL1PY - Rod # 9622 and ZL1PD - Alison #9623**

**ZL1DD - Barry # 9029** – passed on the following via Ralph, ZL2AOH - "I sold my Waiheke property mid July, reduced my worldly possessions to one twenty foot container lot and headed off for a vacation in Chiang Mai, north Thailand. It is a pleasant place with lots of amenities and living costs are very low. I am also doing some voluntary work for an NGO up here.

Unfortunately there is no reciprocal amateur radio licence with NZ. I believe I know how the arrangement could be made, but have not progressed the matter as folk back in ZL will know better and hence the process could take years, assuming it succeeded at all. Plan to return to ZL just before Xmas, look around for a small house in a rural setting somewhere between the Auckland Harbour Bridge and the Brynderwyns. Wish me luck!"

**ZL1BLR-Len # 9061** has just returned from a nostalgia trip to the UK. Here he writes about the trip and of his recent move of QTH from Rotorua to Te Awamutu.

This was my first trip home for 36 years so I was very busy catching up with family and friends. Some of my grandchildren I hadn't seen before so that was a very special time for me!! We had several reunion meetings with my / our families. My wife went back 10 years ago but it was still a great thrill for her to visit with old friends and relations.

As regards Ham Radio I didn't have too much time for that but I did visit G4RZQ and whilst I was with him G3IMX (who I have worked many times over the years) turned up so we had a lovely three-way conversation. They both live on the Isle of Wight, where my wife was born and raised, and where we stayed with her sister and brother in law. There weren't many ham aeriels to be seen as we travelled around, but there was a very nice Ham station set up at the Imperial war Museum at Duxford, where we spent a very interesting day, and one that brought back so many memories of my old days in the RAF 1949-1955. There wasn't much propagation on the DX bands whilst I was at GB2IWM (in the middle of the afternoon their time) so wasn't able to have any contacts.

WX was absolutely perfect throughout our two and a half month stay getting up to 40c some days and only 2 nights when there were a few spots of rain.

I'm looking forward to getting back on the air in the next few weeks and see what condx are like from this QTH which is about 60 miles NW of Rotorua and 15 miles south of Hamilton. There are two Fists members here whom I know from previous contacts from Rotorua and personal meetings at junk sales.

**VK4TJ - John # 9080** - I was talking to Nao, JO3HPM, yesterday on 20 metres. He is keen to work ZL & VK FISTS members, and asks if we could all look for him late afternoons/early evenings on 14058? He is a cliff dweller, making do with a 9metre wire antenna on his balcony, so the lower HF bands are a non-starter for him. He often appears deceptively weak due to the above antenna problems, but in fact generally succeeds in pulling stations through the QRN. I don't believe he is actively chasing our awards or anything, just likes to "reach out" a bit in the world of FISTS.

**ZL1BRS - Syd # 9013** in a letter to the Editor, writes that he has been in his new QTH at Green Island, Dunedin since April. Moving house just gets harder as age gets older and heaving pianos on the back of removal trucks does not get any easier! Am not on the bands at present, as the new home has no garage or rumpus room etc for the Amateur gear. I enjoyed reading the article about the Gothic in the last newsletter so much so that I trotted off to the Dunedin Library and asked if they had a copy of the book "Royal Standard Red Ensign" They had and so I snapped it up to borrow for a month of really interesting "page turning".

### OTHER MEMBERS' NEWS

**G0HGA - Angie # 0041** is promoting VIVATMORSE - a Morse Code Reflector. - VIVATMORSE is a UK based Amateur Radio Reflector for users and supporters worldwide of on air CW (Morse code) in respect of all Amateur Bands. This reflector is oriented toward Radio Amateurs, prospective Amateurs, SWLs and former professional and armed services operators. In order to be approved for membership you must either have a call sign or be able to prove a bona fide interest in amateur radio. - Members are welcome to discuss radio and technology related topics other than CW provided the main content is relevant to amateur radio.

The group's web site address is <http://www.qsl.net/g0hga/> and you can subscribe to the group by sending an e-mail message to [VivatMorse-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VivatMorse-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

### PERSONAL PROFILE – ZL2AUJ -DAVID CATCHPOLE # 9668

David is a retired pharmacist having worked in the retail pharmacy trade for over 50 years. He has been a keen tramp and is still lucky enough to be able to get out in the hills albeit a little slower in recent years. He was involved in SAR for many years, where an ability to communicate in Morse came in handy when poor conditions made phone transmissions from a search team virtually useless.

David was licensed in 1955 and has kept the same call throughout. His QTH is on a hill above Scorching Bay, a popular swimming area in the summer. He overlooks the outer Wellington harbour.

David's rigs are an FT-101B and an ICOM IC-721. He operates with a K-40 keyer adapted to run both rigs on CW, as neither rig has a built-in keyer.

David has a K-12 keyer with an instruction sheet. He is not using it and it's available to any member cost of postage. You can find David's contact details in the latest FISTS Down Under membership list.

### ZL6FF IN THE FISTS COAST-TO-COAST CONTEST 2006

**ZL2BSJ-Wilbert #9637** operated ZL6FF from Quartz Hill during the annual C2C contest. - Here's his report on the event that originally appeared on the Quartz Hill Supporters' website:

ZL6FF is the New Zealand flagship of the Fists Club, a worldwide bunch of radio amateurs who are committed to keeping Morse telegraphy, or CW, up there.

On the agenda was the Coast-to-Coast activity where you can work in CW anything that moves. This event is supposed to be friendly and low-key (so to speak). The C2C runs over 24 hours, and to complete a QSO, there is quite a bit to send: report, name, state or country and Fists number or power level.

Unfortunately, chief operator Ralph ZL2AOH and visiting op Nigel ZL2TX were both out of action, so it fell to Wilbert ZL2BSJ to put ZL6FF on the air from Quartz Hill.

At 06:00 on Sunday, it was an early start. The bands were a bit flat... nothing much was happening even after 40 minutes of calling CQ...until it was realised that - out in the paddock - the Rhombic had been disconnected from its open wire feeders. Marvellous what those antenna tuners will load into!

Having changed to a working antenna on the patch-panel, ZL6FF went looking for the US on 20 m. The band still sounded suspiciously quiet and the few USA Fists were weak, but on narrow-bandwidth modes such as CW, almost anything is workable. The 20 m USA long path was firmly closed, however, and by midday there were only 20 stations in the log. Fists Station operator John at VK2FDU/4 confirmed that things weren't much better across the ditch.

Club stations like ZL6FF are supposed to call 'CQ C2C' and often the people who called - while keen to work DX - did not know the exchange. Having to explain it to them dragged things out a bit, but the ZL6FF philosophy was that it all added up to quality band-noise.

By Sunday mid-afternoon 20 m was dry with only 50 QSOs logged, and 15 and 10 m remained closed. The operator was becoming concerned about being accused of 'slacking on the job'...so the operation moved to 40 m.

This band went very well into Europe on the long path, but not many Fists were worked as the run-frequency went crazy. Clearly, European pile-ups don't do 'low-key'...they are more into down key! Anyway, lots of EU ops reported '80 W' or '100 W' and verticals, Windoms, G5RVs and dipoles. All were excellent copy - as long as the pack stood by. Best DX: DK1VD running 5 W into a vertical, armchair copy at 559.

Quartz Hill contester Chris Tran ZL1CT (FISTS # 9648) called in from Invergordon signing GM3WOJ while the 40 m band petered out to Europe...and roared into life to the USA! The American opening (at East Coast sunrise) was even better, with competitive stations up to 20 dB over S-9 and people with 100 W and dipoles still S-9 copy.

At 12:46 UTC W3RSR in Pennsylvania - reporting "5 W" - was logged and ZL6FF went QRT with 217 QSOs in the log.

## **ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTER**

**HAVE YOU AN ARTICLE THAT OTHERS WOULD LIKE TO READ? PLEASE SEND THEM IN TO THE EDITOR.  
ADDRESS IN HEADER.**

## **GALLERY OF MORSE KEYS**

You can probably find an illustration of your own Morse key(s) included in a comprehensive gallery of over 400 keys on the web site of Apostolos SV1EDY at <http://www.qsl.net/sv1edy/eyindex.htm>

The high definition illustrations are excellent. Although the keys are titled and indexed in English; unfortunately some of the descriptions are in Greek. - It's well worth a visit.

## **NEW ZEALAND 2006 STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT**

**When - 4 November 2006 – 07:00 UTC to 10:00 UTC (2000 NZDT to 2300 NZDT)**  
**Where - 80m (3.5Mhz)**  
**Mode - CW only**

For contest rules and other operating information, please refer to the 2006/7 NZART Call Book, Page 5-8, or the NZART Website at [www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/Update/Contests/rules.html](http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/Update/Contests/rules.html)

**Please note this change from the published information: Send logs by email, or mail to Ken McCormack ZL1AIH, 181 Ararimu Valley Road, R D 2, Waimauku 0882 - [zl1aih@ihug.co.nz](mailto:zl1aih@ihug.co.nz)**

FISTS Down Under contributes prizes of a certificate and a year's subscription to FISTS Down Under to the winner of each section of the event. So dust off that old hand key and have a fun night.

## **160 METRE EXPERIMENT TO EXPLORE MARCONI'S 1901 TRANSATLANTIC TESTS**

A 160-meter beacon will take to the air this fall and winter from Cornwall, England, to explore how Guglielmo Marconi was able to span the Atlantic by wireless for the first time on December 12, 1901. Radio history says that's when the radio pioneer at a receiving station in Newfoundland successfully copied the Morse code letter "s" sent repeatedly by his team in the Cornwall town of Poldhu. The latter-day venture is a cooperative effort of the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club (PARK) in Cornwall and the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland (MCRN). The Poldhu club's Keith Matthew, G0WYS, said the 2001 centenary of Marconi's achievement reopened discussion into the mechanism by which the 1901 spark transmitter signal propagated.

"The winter of 1901 coincided with a sunspot minimum, and it was realized that this coming December 2006 should show similar conditions to those of December 1901," he said. Just how Marconi was able to receive the transatlantic transmission has long been a topic of discussion and even controversy, especially given the frequency Marconi is likely to have used, thought to be between 800 and 900 kHz, and the time of day, afternoon in Newfoundland.

"The beacon will help understand the possibility of low sunspot number transatlantic medium wave propagation 24 hours a day, but especially 1400 through 1800 UTC," Matthew said. The 160-meter amateur band is being used, he explained, because Marconi's original frequency today is a highly populated piece of the radio spectrum.

"It was realized that a clear channel would be necessary on the nearest amateur band, and a temporary license to operate a beacon on 160 meters has now been obtained," Matthew announced. Starting on or about November 1 and continuing through next February, the GB3SSS beacon will transmit on 1960 kHz.

The 1960 kHz beacon will use a two-minute transmit sequence starting at the top of the hour. It will consist of a CW identification followed by a series of carrier bursts, each reducing in power by 6 dB. Identification in PSK31 will follow. The transmit sequence will repeat at 15-minute intervals.

On the listening end in Newfoundland will be well-known low-frequency experimenter Joe Craig, VO1NA, of the MRCN, who lives near St John's. "This is a very exciting project," Craig said. "I am very grateful for the support from my fellow members in the club and our sister club, the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club." Craig offered his own observations on Marconi's 1901 feat in a 2001 article "Marconi's First Transatlantic Wireless Experiment," for The Canadian Amateur, the journal of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) <<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~jcraig/marconi.html>>. Also monitoring in North America will be the Antique Wireless Association's W2AN club station in upstate New York.

ARRL member and radio history buff Bart Lee, KV6LEE, proposed the 160-meter experiment to test the feasibility of Marconi's 1901-claimed achievement. "Continuing cooperation between Canadian and British Amateur Radio operators can thus play a part in verification of one of the most interesting events in the history of our technology," Lee said in his article "A Plea for Timely Experiments" on the California Historical Radio Web site <<http://www.californiahistoricalradio.com/photos53.html>>. Lee and Matthew recently visited with Craig and other MRCN members in Newfoundland.

E-mail beacon reception reports <[gb3sss@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gb3sss@yahoo.co.uk)>.  
(A.R.R.L. News Letter to whom acknowledgement is made)



### **MORSE CODE SOS MAKES A COMEBACK**

B.B.C. News Item of Interest - forwarded by John Kirk, VK4TJ # 9080

London, England 20 October 2006.

Morse Code, the dots and dashes signalling system first used at sea on the Titanic and long since consigned to the scrapheap, made a triumphant comeback this week in the rescue of a stranded fisherman.

The man had run aground near Hayling Island on the south coast when his boat began taking on water. He had no modern safety aids and no phone – but it was dark and he did have a torch.

Using the code's legendary short and long flashes, he managed to communicate the SOS distress message to the coast guard building, where rescue officer Steve Mann was on duty.

"I was absolutely amazed to see the flashed SOS message," Mann (31) said. "I never thought I would ever see it. My colleagues, who have been here for about 12 years, have never heard of such a case before. It is very unconventional."

A spokesman for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency said Morse "never happens any more"!

"Nowadays most seamen have V.H.F. radio, flares or at least cell phones if they are inshore, to send an emergency message, but the fisherman, who had transferred all his safety equipment from his fishing vessel to a new boat, had none of these for his trip from Emsworth to nearby Thornham marina on Thursday evening - Just the Torch"!

Morse Code is no longer part of Coastguard Training. Mann, who had been with the coastguard for the past two years added "I have just picked up bits of Morse along the way!" He added; "This man was caught out on the one occasion he went to sea with absolutely no safety equipment. Even without radio communication, going to sea without even a portable flare is extremely dangerous and could cost you your life"

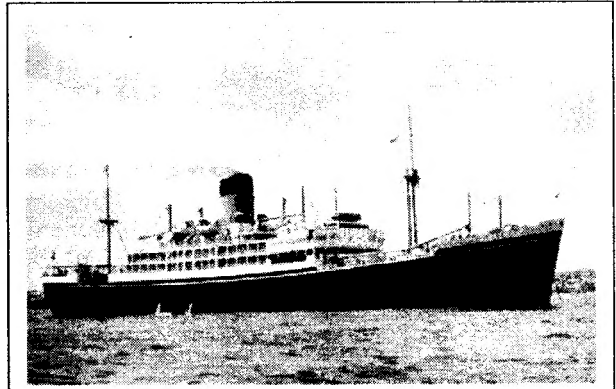
The Stricken Fisherman - was picked up later, by a Coastguard inshore lifeboat – Reuters.

(I seem to recall a very similar recent incident, where a Qantas Aircraft was asked to descend and look for a stricken yacht. The aircraft unable to contact the yacht by Radiotelephone used its lights to send Morse. The person aboard apparently knew Morse and replied! – Can anyone elaborate on this incident? I will have to bring the above article to the attention of my elder Son, David. He currently serves in the local New Zealand Coastguard and attends many incidents. At least he has a basic knowledge of Morse even though he is not interested in Amateur Radio – Ed)

### **ROYAL YACHT – RED DUSTER**

Last Month's newsletter contained an article on the Shaw Savill vessel "Gothic" – The only British Merchant Ship to have been used as a Royal Yacht. Searching through my collection of Stamps I came across a miniature sheet from the Cocos (Keeling) Islands issued to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen's visit to the Islands in 1954.

Shown clearly top right is the Gothic painted white all over. (Left - Photo). Here she is in her normal colours before the fire. (Right –Photo). A Proud looking vessel in her day! -Ed



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